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**Constitutional Convention Bullet Points**

**Delegates to the Convention:**

* May 25, 1787 – 5 years after the Revolutionary War
* 55 delegates, represented a new generation of American Leaders
* George Washington – president of the Convention

**James Madison:** Very knowledgeable about history, politics, and commerce (is the exchange of goods and services from the point of production to the point of consumption to satisfy human wants). Often called the Father of the Constitution

**Secret Debates:** The Convention was kept secret from the public to allow them freedom of speech

**Rival Plans: Virginia Plan vs. New Jersey Plan**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Virginia Plan** | **New Jersey Plan** |
| Strong National Govt. | Strong National Govt. |
| Legislative Branch – pass the laws | Legislative Branch – pass the laws |
| Executive Branch – carry out the laws | Executive Branch – carry out the laws |
| Judicial Branch – interprets the laws | Judicial Branch – interprets the laws |
| Legislative Branch – 2 houses | Legislative Branch – only 1 house |
| Representatives and their votes based upon states’ population (multiple votes) | 1 representative for each state with 1 vote |
| Larger states favored this plan | Smaller states favored this plan |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Great Compromise** | Disagreements between large and small states   * Creation of a 2 house legislature * House of Representatives – elected by popular vote (lower house) based upon a states’ population * Senate – 2 Senators from each state (upper house) chosen by state legislature * Great Compromise – each side gave up some demands to achieve unity |
| **Three/Fifths Compromise** | * Would slaves be counted as part of the population when deciding on representatives and votes * Would the slave trade continue in the United States – purchasing of slaves coming into the United States (not the abolishment of slavery) * Southerners wanted to include slaves as part of the population * Slaves could not vote * If slaves counted the southern states would have more representatives in the House of Representatives * Northerners said if slaves could not vote, then they can’t be counted as part of the population * **Compromise:** 3 out of 5 slaves in any state would be counted as part of the population |
| **The Slave Trade** | * Some northerner states banned the slave trade * Some delegates from the northerner states wanted slave trade banned everywhere * Southerner states stated it would ruin them financially and their economy * **Compromise:**    + Congress cannot outlaw the slave trade for at least 20 years   + This will give the southern states time to prepare for this change   + After 20 years Congress could regulate the slave trade   + Northerners agreed to not stop a fugitive slave from being returned to its owner |
| **Signing the Constitution** | * **Sept.** 17, 1787 – the Constitution is ready to be signed almost 4 months after the convention began * 52 of the delegates signed the Constitution * 3 delegates refused to sign the Constitution claiming the national government had too much power   + Edmund Randolph of Virginia   + George Mason of Virginia   + Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts * Each state is to hold a convention to approve or reject the plan for the new government * 9 states had to approve the new Constitution to be able to go into effect |